



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 2002

H.R. 4807

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 26, 2002*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4807 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain lands for inclusion in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. The legislation also would establish the Accokeek Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and would authorize the Secretary to acquire nonfederal lands within that proposed refuge.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4807 would cost about \$20 million over the 2003-2007 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts. H.R. 4807 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4807 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 800 (general government).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 1 | 18 | * | * | * |
| Estimated Outlays | 1 | 18 | * | * | * |
| NOTE: * = Less than \$500,000. | | | | | |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4807 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2003 and that amounts necessary to implement the legislation will be provided near the start of each fiscal year. Estimates of outlays are based on historic spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 4807 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Garrett Island, a 198-acre island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Cecil County, Maryland. The legislation would direct the Secretary to manage the acquired lands as a unit of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Based on information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CBO estimates that the agency would spend up to \$800,000 to acquire the island in 2003.

H.R. 4807 also would establish the Accokeek Creek National Wildlife Refuge on 7,480 acres of land in Stafford County, Virginia, and would authorize the Secretary to acquire nonfederal lands within the proposed refuge. Based on information from the USFWS, we estimate that acquiring those lands would cost \$18 million in 2004.

In addition, based on information from the USFWS, CBO estimates that the agency would spend less than \$500,000 annually to manage lands acquired under H.R. 4807 and to make payments to Cecil County and Stafford County under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4807 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On July 3, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4807 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 26, 2002. Our estimates of the cost of acquiring and managing Garrett Island are the same under both versions of the legislation. Our estimate of total spending under the Senate version of H.R. 4807 is higher than for the House version, however, because it would establish the Accokeek Creek National Wildlife Refuge and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire nonfederal lands within that proposed refuge.

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